

V. REMARKS

Claims 1-7 are rejected under 35 USC 103 (a) as being unpatentable over Muir et al. (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 20050192090) in view of Ozaki et al. (U.S. Patent No. 7,204,753). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Muir discloses a gaming machine display which includes a game playing arrangement mountable in a cabinet of a gaming machine and an electronically controlled display element overlying the game playing arrangement, in use, so that, depending on a state of the display element, the game playing arrangement is visible through the display element. The game playing arrangement includes a mechanical, symbol-carrying arrangement. The symbol-carrying arrangement has a set of rotatable mechanical reels with a plurality of symbols being arranged on an outer periphery of each reel. The display element has a display screen overlying the game playing arrangement. The display screen is a multi-layered structure that includes a monitor on which images are to be displayed. The monitor overlies a shutter mechanism.

Ozaki teaches a game machine that has a back side display unit composed of reels for displaying back patterns and a front side display unit composed of transparent EL panels for displaying overlapping patterns overlapping with the back patterns. The back side display unit and the front side display unit are disposed not to produce blind spot regions of the back patterns. The game machine can provide various overlapping patterns with good visibility and a high game selection capability to a player.

Claim 1, as amended, is directed to a gaming machine that includes a cabinet, at least one decoration panel disposed on the front of said cabinet, a display device that includes a mask panel having a plurality of display windows provided therethrough with the display device mounted on the front of said cabinet and

adjacent the at least one decoration panel and with the mask panel defining an imaginary plane, a plurality of rotary reels operative to rotate about a common axis of rotation and positioned in a juxtaposed manner inside the cabinet with each one of the plurality of rotary reels having a plurality of symbols disposed on respective outer peripheries thereof with forward most ones of the plurality of symbols being visible through respective ones of the display windows and at least one light source unit disposed inside of said cabinet and behind the at least one decoration panel with the at least one light source unit extending longitudinally along and about a longitudinal axis and including an elongated illuminating lamp and an elongated reflection plate positioned adjacent the illuminating lamp, the illuminating lamp and the reflection plate extending parallel to one another and to the common axis of rotation. Claim 1 further recites that the at least one decoration panel is illuminated by light illuminating from the illuminating lamp and the forward most ones of the plurality of symbols are illuminated by the light illuminating from the illuminating lamp and by light illuminating from the illuminating lamp reflected from the reflection plate, the at least one light source unit is disposed apart from the display windows and longitudinally contacts the imaginary plane, the illuminating lamp and the reflection plate are arranged so that the plurality of symbols are illuminated by light emitted from the illuminating lamp and by reflected light being light emitted from the illuminating lamp and reflected by the reflection plate and the at least one decoration panel is provided at least at either one of an upper side or a lower side of the display device and the elongated illuminating lamp directly illuminates the decoration panel from the inside of the gaming machine.

It is respectfully submitted that that none of the applied art, alone or in combination, teaches or suggests the features of claim 1 as amended. Specifically, it is respectfully submitted that the applied art, alone or in combination, fails to teach or suggest the at least one decoration panel is provided at least at either one of an

upper side or a lower side of the display device and the elongated illuminating lamp directly illuminates the decoration panel from the inside of the gaming machine. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that one of ordinary skill in the art could not combine the features of the applied art to arrive at the claimed invention because the applied art is devoid of all the features of the claimed invention. As a result, it is respectfully submitted that claim 1 is allowable over the applied art.

Claims 2 and 3 depend from claim 1 and include all of the features of claim 1. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the dependent claims are allowable at least for the reason claim 1 is allowable as well as for the features they recite.

Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

It is respectfully submitted that the pending claims are believed to be in condition for allowance over the prior art of record. Therefore, this Amendment is believed to be a complete response to the outstanding Office Action. Further, Applicants assert that there are also reasons other than those set forth above why the pending claims are patentable. Applicants hereby reserve the right to set forth further arguments and remarks supporting the patentability of their claims, including the separate patentability of the dependent claims not explicitly addressed herein, in future papers.

In view of the foregoing, reconsideration of the application and allowance of the pending claims are respectfully requested. Should the Examiner believe anything further is desirable in order to place the application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' representative at the telephone number listed below.

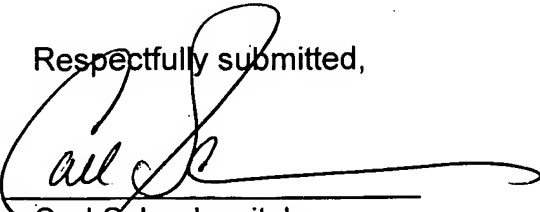
Should additional fees be necessary in connection with the filing of this paper or if a Petition for Extension of Time is required for timely acceptance of the same,

the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 18-0013 for any such fees and Applicant(s) hereby petition for such extension of time.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: August 18, 2008

By:


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Enclosure(s): Amendment Transmittal
Request for Continued Examination

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